

and create a new generation of innovators and pioneers.

This will be a great and unifying mission for NASA, and we know that you'll achieve it. I have directed Administrator O'Keefe to review all of NASA's current spaceflight and exploration activities and direct them toward the goals I have outlined. I will also form a commission of private and public sector experts to advise on implementing the vision that I've outlined today. This commission will report to me within 4 months of its first meeting. I'm today naming former Secretary of the Air Force Pete Aldridge to be the chair of the commission. Thank you for being here today, Pete. He has tremendous experience in the Department of Defense and the aerospace industry. He is going to begin this important work right away.

We'll invite other nations to share the challenges and opportunities of this new era of discovery. The vision I outline today is a journey, not a race, and I call on other nations to join us on this journey in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

Achieving these goals requires a long-term commitment. NASA's current 5-year budget is \$86 billion. Most of the funding we need for the new endeavors will come from reallocating \$11 billion within that budget. We need some new resources, however. I will call upon Congress to increase NASA's budget by roughly a billion

dollars, spread out over the next 5 years. This increase, along with refocusing of our space agency, is a solid beginning to meet the challenges and the goals that we set today. It's only a beginning. Future funding decisions will be guided by the progress we make in achieving these goals.

We begin this venture knowing that space travel brings great risks. The loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* was less than one year ago. Since the beginning of our space program, America has lost 23 astronauts and one astronaut from an allied nation, men and women who believed in their mission and accepted the dangers. As one family member said, "The legacy of *Columbia* must carry on—for the benefit of our children and yours." *Columbia's* crew did not turn away from the challenge, and neither will we.

Mankind is drawn to the heavens for the same reason we were once drawn into unknown lands and across the open sea. We choose to explore space because doing so improves our lives and lifts our national spirit. So let us continue the journey.

May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to C. Michael Foale, commander, and Alexander Kaleri, flight engineer, Expedition 8, International Space Station; and Senator Bill Nelson of Florida.

## Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain January 14, 2004

*President Bush.* *Bienvenidos a mi amigo,* a friend of mine, a friend of our country, a person who I admire a lot. This is a happy moment and a sad moment. It's happy to be with President Aznar. It is sad to realize this will be the last time he'll come to the Oval Office as the leader of Spain.

I say "sad" because our time together has been very productive for the people of America and, I believe, the people of Spain and the people of the world. We have worked together to spread freedom, and the world is more peaceful today because of the decisions we jointly made.

However, this is not the last time I will see the President. I am confident that the friendship we have made will last beyond our—my time in office and his time in office. I look back—I look forward to welcoming him back to America as a non-President. We'll be members of the ex-Presidents club.

And so, Mr. President, I'm really glad you're here. I look forward to having dinner with you tonight and your great wife. And again, in front of these cameras, I want to thank you for your steadfast leadership, for your courage, for your wisdom, and your advice.

[At this point, President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. Thank you all.

Q. Translation?

President Bush. He doesn't need to translate for me. I understood every word. [Laughter]

[The interpreter then translated President Aznar's remarks as follows.]

President Aznar. Good evening, everyone. I want to thank President Bush once again for this very warm welcome, for the invitation, for his hospitality. For me, it is a satisfaction and an honor to be here with

him again. I consider him a very good friend. He has been my friend during my time as President of the Government of Spain, and I will continue to consider him my friend afterwards.

And a friend—I am a friend of the United States now, and I will continue to be a friend of the United States in the future. I consider that, at present, the relationship between Spain and the United States is closer and tighter than it has ever been.

I will continue to work to do everything to strengthen the relationship, the Atlantic link. I will work for freedom, for human rights, for democracy, for stability, prosperity around the world. And I know that President Bush will be able to count upon me to continue working in that direction. So I will continue to work for the world and for the relationship between the United States and Spain.

President Bush. Adios.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:28 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ana Botella de Aznar, wife of President Aznar. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks to Faith-Based and Community Leaders in New Orleans, Louisiana

January 15, 2004

Thank you all very much for your warm welcome. Reverend Brown, thank you for your hospitality, your gracious hospitality. It's not easy to host a President. [Laughter] It seems as if the entourages are quite large. So I want to thank you for accommodating me and this cast of characters that travels with me. [Laughter] I'm here to talk about something vital to the future of the country, and I appreciate you giving me

a chance to share with you my dreams and aspirations for all our citizens.

I'm really not worthy to stand here, when I think about the fact that not only Reverend Brown preaches here on a regular basis, but this is the very place where Martin Luther King stood as well some 42 years ago. It's from this pulpit that he preached. Today would have been his 75th birthday. It's important for our country to honor his life and what he stood for.